Agreement between MNCs and ISRO

†1073. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain multinational companies have offered to arrive at an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation for jointly manufacturing and marketing of the small sized satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what strategy has been worked out by Government in this regard with a view to make up to some extent the heavy expenditure to be incurred on the Space Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A few international space industries have shown interest in developing alliances with Antrix Corporation, which is the marketing arm of Department of Space for jointly manufacturing and marketing small/medium satellites.

(b) In the context of exploring possibilities for internationally marketing the capabilities developed by ISRO, Antrix is in touch with leading space industries such as Lockheed Martin and Boeing Space Systems of USA, Alcatel Space Industries of France for forging suitable alliances.

(c) Major elements of strategy adopted by the Government with a view to supplement the investment in space programme include the following:

- Marketing internationally the data and services from the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites.
- Exploring international markets for supply of satellite sub-systems and systems through appropriate alliances and joint ventures.
- Provision of capacity from communication satellites, after meeting national needs.
- Launch services for small satellites.
- Provision of mission support and other services.

The Government has also taken steps to forge international co-operation with a number of countries including developing countries where future commercial use of Indian capabilities could be facilitated.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.